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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
NAJJAR, SALEH	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2157	10

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/588,293	DODRILL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Saleh Najjar	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 January 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-64* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-64* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on January 16, ,2004. Claims 1, 10, 14-15, 18, 22, 25, 32, 41, 45-46, 49, 53, 56, 63, and 64 were amended. Claims 1-64 are pending. Claims 1-64 represent method, system and program directed toward a unified Messaging system using web based application server for management of messages using standardized servers.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-6, 13-23, 27-37, 44-54, and 58-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gifford et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,5549,612.

Gifford teaches the invention as claimed including a unified communication services using an active interface for controlling message services (see abstract).As to claim 1, Gifford teaches a method in an application server for executing a voice messaging application, the method comprising:

receiving a first HTTP request from a browser for execution of prescribed voice messaging application operation for a subscriber (see figs. 2-6; col. 6-7, 12, Gifford discloses receiving a HTTP request for a voice messaging service at a server);

accessing attribute information for the subscriber from an Internet Protocol (IP) based database server configured for storing subscriber attributes (see col. 11-15, Gifford discloses retrieving subscriber profile information for proper formatting of messaging services);

accessing an IP-based messaging server for subscriber messaging information based on the accessed attribute information each stored message on the IP-based messaging server being stored within a corresponding e-mail message as a URL encoded string with the corresponding header information (see col. 6; col. 11-15, Gifford

discloses that encoded URL's are used to represent manipulation of stored messages); and

generating an HTML page, for execution of the prescribed messaging application operation and having media content and control tags, based on the first HTTP request and the subscriber messaging information (see col. 12-14, Gifford teaches that the voice application services page presented to the subscriber is formatted according to HTML, WML, or XML based on the subscriber capabilities).

wherein the prescribed voice messaging operation specifies one of: (1) requesting storage of a first message, having been generated according to a corresponding media type having a corresponding Multipurpose Internet Media Extension (MIME) type, in the IP-based messaging server, and 2) presenting in the HTML page a second message, having been stored in the IP based messaging server, according to a corresponding media type with the corresponding MIME type, the method further comprising:

converting the corresponding message associated with the prescribed voice messaging operation between the corresponding media type and a corresponding e-mail message, having a header specifying the corresponding MIME type and having the corresponding URL encoded string as an attachment, for transfer of the corresponding message between the browser and the IP-based messaging server (see col. 6-8, Gifford discloses that manipulation of URL encoded strings control formatting, receipt and transmission of stored messages).

As to claim 2, Gifford teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes recovering within the HTTP request a browser configuration, and call parameters (see col. 6-10).

As to claim 3, Gifford teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the recovering step includes identifying the browser configuration as one of a computer browser configuration configured for parsing a prescribed group of media tags and presenting a prescribed group of media types, and a lightweight browser configuration configured for parsing a prescribed portion of the prescribed group of media tags (see col. 10-15).

As to claim 4, Gifford teaches the method of claim 3, wherein the generating step includes generating the HTML page by selectively supplying media tag types based on the identified browser configuration (see col. 10-15).

As to claim 5, Gifford teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the call parameters include a called party identifier, the accessing step including retrieving the attribute information, specifying at least one of subscriber registration status and subscriber messaging preferences, based on the called party identifier (see col. 9-10).

As to claim 6, Gifford teaches the method of claim 5, wherein the call parameters include a calling party identifier the accessing step further including retrieving second subscriber attribute information based on the calling party identifier (see col. 9-12).

As to claim 13, Gifford teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing the IP-based messaging server includes determining a presence of a stored message on the IP-based messaging server for the subscriber based on the subscriber messaging information, the generating step including selectively inserting one of a first prompt file specifying no new messages and a second prompt file specifying the determined presence of the stored message, based on the subscriber messaging information (see col. 6-12).

As to claim 14, Gifford teaches the method of claim 13, wherein the step of accessing the IP-based messaging server further includes identifying, for each stored message, a corresponding message type based on corresponding header information specifying a Multipurpose Internet Media Extension (MIME) type, the second prompt file configured for specifying the corresponding message type for each stored message (see col. 6-12).

As to claim 15, Gifford teaches the method of claim 14, the method further comprising:

selecting one of the stored messages from the IP-based messaging server; and the converting step including converting the URL encoded string of the selected one message into a media file having a prescribed media type, based on the corresponding MIME type and determined capabilities of a browser having sent the first HTTP request, the generating step including inserting the media file into a media tag with a

corresponding media control tag for playback of the media file by the browser (see col. 6-14).

As to claim 16, Gifford teaches the method of claim 15, wherein the converting step includes converting the URL encoded string to text and executing a text to speech routine for converting the text into an audio file based on the header information specifying text and the determined attributes specifying audio only (see col. 6-15).

As to claim 17, Gifford teaches the method of claim 15, wherein the converting step includes converting the URL encoded string into an audio file based on the header information specifying a .wav MIME type (see col. 8-15).

As to claim 18, Gifford teaches the method of claim 14, the method further comprising:

converting selected header information into an audio file based on determining the MIME type is incompatible with determined capabilities of the browser, the generating step including inserting the audio file into the HTML page for playback by the browser (see col. 8-15).

As to claim 19, Gifford teaches the method of claim 18, wherein the converting step includes converting the selected header information based on determining the MIME type specifies an image document and the determined capabilities to not include display of images (see col. 6-15).

As to claim 20, Gifford teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second HTTP request for storage for the subscriber of a message having a prescribed messaging format; and outputting to the IP-based messaging server an instruction for storage of a standard-format message, containing the message and header information specifying the prescribed messaging format, in a directory specified for the subscriber (see col. 6-15).

As to claim 21, Gifford teaches the method of claim 20, wherein the outputting step includes:

converting the message into a URL encoded string;

generating a header that specifies a Multipurpose Internet Media Extension (MIME) type for the prescribed messaging format; and sending as the standard-format

message an e-mail message, including the URL encoded string and the header as an attachment, to the IP-based messaging server according to SMTP protocol for delivery to the directory specified for the subscriber (see col. 6-10).

Claims 22-23, 27-37, 44-54, and 58-64 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 1-6, 13-20 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gifford in view of Scheussler et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,366,950.

Gifford teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a unified communication services using an active interface for controlling message services (see abstract).

As to claims 7-8, Gifford teaches the method of claim 5.

Gifford fails to teach the limitation wherein the accessing step includes accessing the IP-based database server according to LDAP protocol.

However, accessing a database server according to LDAP protocol is old and well known in the art. For example, Scheussler teaches a system and method for verifying user's identity in a network using email communication (see abstract). Scheussler teaches accessing the IP-based database server according to LDAP protocol (see col. 5-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Gifford by implementing LDAP protocol to access a database server. One would be motivated to do so to allow for simple protocol for updating and searching directories running over TCP/IP.

6. Claims 9-12, 25-26, 40-43, and 56-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gifford in view of Bettis, U.S. Patent No. 6,421,708.

Gifford teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a unified communication services using an active interface for controlling message services (see abstract).

As to claims 9-12, Gifford teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of accessing the IP-based messaging server includes selectively obtaining from the IP-based messaging server at least one of a subscriber name (see col. 6-15).

Gifford fails to teach the limitation of obtaining a subscriber greeting as a subscriber prompt based on a subscriber identifier obtained from the accessed attribute information and converting the subscriber prompt from the corresponding URL encoded string into a media file having at least one prescribed media type wherein the converting step includes converting the subscriber prompt into a Multipurpose Internet Media Extension (MIME) type.wav file playable by a browser and generating an HTML page including inserting a first media tag including the .wav file and a second media tag configured for controlling playing of the .wav file..

However, Bettis teaches a Internet based access of voice mail (see abstract). Bettis teaches obtaining a subscriber greeting as a subscriber prompt based on a subscriber identifier obtained from the accessed attribute information (see col. 5, lines 10-20, Bettis discloses that the user profile includes items such as greeting a caller will hear when reaching the subscriber).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Gifford in view of Bettis so that a greeting prompt is associated with the subscriber. One would be motivated to do so to inform a calling user of a particular notification.

Claims 25-26, 40-43, and 56-57 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 9-12 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

7. Claims 24, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gifford in view of Scheussler et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,366,950 further in view of McCormick et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,421,709.

Gifford teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a unified communication services using an active interface for controlling message services (see abstract).

As to claim 24, Gifford teaches the system of claim 23 above.

Gifford fails to teach wherein the application runtime environment accesses the IP based database server according to LDAP protocol.

However, accessing a database server according to LDAP protocol is old and well known in the art. For example, Scheussler teaches a system and method for verifying user's identity in a network using email communication (see abstract). Scheussler teaches accessing the IP-based database server according to LDAP protocol (see col. 5-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Gifford by implementing LDAP protocol to access a database server. One would be motivated to do so to allow for simple protocol for updating and searching directories running over TCP/IP.

Gifford fails to teach accessing the IP-based messaging server using IMAP protocol.

However, McCormick teaches a method and system for filtering junk email (see abstract). McCormick teaches accessing a IP based server using IMAP protocol (see col. 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Gifford by including the IMP protocol as taught by McCormick. One would be motivated to do so since IMAP protocol is a popular protocol used on the Internet that allows users to directly retrieve messages from their mail boxes.

Claims 54 does not teach or define any new limitations above claim 24 and therefore is rejected for similar reasons.

8. Applicant's arguments filed January 16, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the remarks, the applicant argues in substance that the Gifford reference does not teach where the message is stored in the form of a URL encoded string and that Gifford assumes e-mail messages are sent with conventional MIME encoded attachments.

In response, Gifford discloses that message can be manipulated using encoded URLs to give the user the ability to interact with the server and control the message communication function (see col. 6, lines 15-40)

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saleh Najjar whose telephone number is (703) 308-7613. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Ario Etienne*, can be reached on (703) 308-7562.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600. The central official fax number for the group is (703) 872-9306.

Saleh Najjar
Primary Examiner / Art Unit 2157